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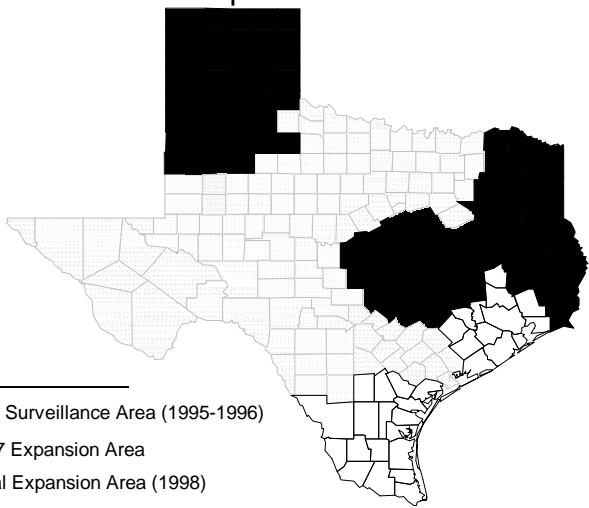
Texas Birth Defects Registry

- C Computerized database of all children with birth defects
- C Multiple data sources
- C Emphasis on structural malformations
- C Includes prenatally diagnosed cases
- C Active surveillance--trained staff visit facilities to collect information
- C Pilot project through 1996 in two of the eleven public health regions (Houston, Lower Rio Grande Valley)
- C Expanded significantly in 1997; final expansion implemented in 1998
- C Provides cases and generates research hypotheses for further studies

Texas Birth Defects Research Center

- C 5-year, \$3,478,000 grant awarded in 1996 by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish one of eight national birth defects research "Centers of Excellence"
- C Funded because of strong State-supported birth defects registry
- C Emphasis on finding preventable causes of birth defects
- C Using cases from the Registry, allows more in-depth local research and participation in national collaborative studies
- C Conduct research with collaborators at the Texas Department of Health and universities

Milestones and Accomplishments

April 1991	Anencephaly cluster identified in	March 1994	Divisional offices opened
		December 1994	Data collection begun in Texas
	Texas Birth Defects Registry	January 1995	Birth Defects Registry pilot
	Phases of Implementation		Scientific Advisory Committee convened
		April 1995	First issue of <i>Texas Birth Defects Monitor</i> published
		October 1996	Texas Birth Defects Research Center funded and established
		January 1997	Registry expanded from 35% to 80% of all live births
		April 1997	Scientific and community forum on neural tube defects in Brownsville
		September 1997	Studies initiated for the Texas Birth Defects Research Center
		October 1997	First annual report based on Registry data published
		October 1997	First divisional strategic planning session
		January 1998	Texas Birth Defects Registry expanded to cover 100% of births statewide
June 1993	Brownsville		
September 1993	Birth Defects Act signed into law		
	Birth Defects Act went into effect		

Plans for SFY 1998- 1999

- C Implement strategic plan (e.g. enhance automation, partnerships, prevention programs)
- C Implement fully and evaluate the referral component of the Registry
- C Disseminate Registry and referral data from pilot
- C Examine case finding data to make the identification of Registry cases more efficient
- C Initiate monitoring function of Registry
- C Partner with other organizations to sponsor a statewide birth defects conference
- C Develop prevention fact sheets and birth defects educational materials
- C Conduct research studies and disseminate findings